IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

Applicant   : Barry Lynn Royer

Serial No.   : 09/817,322

Filed   : March 26, 2001

For   : A SYSTEM AND USER INTERFACE SUPPORTING
                   PROCESSING AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT FOR
                   CONCURRENTLY OPERATING APPLICATIONS

Examiner   : Van H. Nguyen

Art Unit   : 2194

Response to Notice of Noncompliant Appeal Brief

May It Please The Honorable Board:

Appellants filed an Appeal Brief on August 1, 2006 in response to the Notice of Appeal which appealed the Final Rejection, dated March 6, 2006, of Claims 1 – 24 of the above-identified application. A Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated November 1, 2006 was issued objecting to the Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter contained in the Appeal Brief. Please replace the section in the Appeal Brief filed on August 1, 2006 with the replacement "Summary of Claimed Subject Matter". In view of the replacement Summary, Applicant respectfully submits that the Appeal Brief is in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 and respectfully requests a decision be made on the merits of the Appeal.

No fee is believed due with this response. However, please charge any fee or credit any overpayment to the above-identified Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

V.   SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Independent claim 1 provides a system for use in a first application, concurrently operating together with a plurality of network compatible applications (page 4, lines 18-20;

page 5, lines 15-18; Figure 2, 200, 230, 250). An entitlement processor enables user access to a first application of a plurality of concurrently operating applications in response to validation of user identification information (page 5, lines 30-36; Figure 2, 200, 220). A communication processor is employed by the first application of the plurality of concurrently operating applications for intermittently communicating an activity indication to a managing application within a timeout window (page 5, lines 21-27; Figure 2, 200, 222, 224, 230, 250; Figure 5, 513). The activity indication is generated in response to user action and is communicated sufficiently often to prevent an inactivity timeout of the first application being initiated during normal operation of the first application by the managing application in response to the timeout window being exceeded (page 5, lines 21-27; page 7, lines 14-20; page 15, lines 34-36; page 16, lines 30-32; Figure 2, 200, 222, 224, 230, 250; Figure 5, 513; Figure 12, 583).

Dependent claim 2 includes the features of independent claim 1 along with the additional feature that the intermittently communicated activity indication prevents an inactivity timeout of the plurality of concurrently operating applications of a particular user initiated session (page 5, lines 24-27; Figure 2, 200, 230, 250).

Dependent claim 3 includes the features of independent claim 1 along with the additional feature that the communication processor stores a plurality of activity indications and sends the plurality of activity indications as a batch to the managing application (page 15, lines 17-22; FIG 11).

Dependent claim 4 includes the features of independent claim 1 along with the additional feature that the normal operation comprises application operation exclusive of abnormal operation comprising an application failure condition (page 15, lines 12-16;

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Figure 2, 230, 247, 250; Figure 11, 460). The user action comprises at least one of, (a) keyboard activity, (b) mouse activity, (c) other data entry device activity and (d) another user initiated PC application operation activity (page 15, lines 19-22).

Dependent claim 5 includes the features of independent claim 1 along with the additional feature that the first application and the managing application reside in the same PC (page 4, lines 7-9; Figure 2, 220, 230). The activity indication notifies the managing application of activity by the first application and includes one or more of, (a) a session identifier for identifying a particular user initiated session (page 5, lines 28-29; Figure 2, 200, 230, 250), (b) a URL to be contacted if the activity notification is not successful (page 7, lines 21-26; Figure 2, 200), (c) an identification of a type of event preventing the activity notification from being successful (page 7, lines 7-9; Figure 5, 500, 503, 505, 507, 513, 517).

Dependent claim 6 includes the features of independent claim 1 along with the additional feature that the communication processor intermittently communicates activity indications to the managing application using a plurality of different commands including an activity notification command and a command involving at least one of, (a) determining a user operation session identifier from said managing application and (b) sending a URL to said managing application (page 14, lines 3-8; Figure 9, 900, 903, 911, 913, 917).

Dependent claim 7 includes the features of independent claim 1 along with the additional feature that the communication processor communicates to the managing application a request to receive an activity indication associated with the first application and maintained by the managing application (page 15, lines 24-25; Figure 2, 200, 250).

The activity indication indicates time since the last activity update (page 16, lines 2-5; Figure 2, 233, 250, 280).

Dependent claim 8 includes the features of independent claim 1 along with the additional feature that individual applications of the plurality of concurrently operating applications independently intermittently communicate an activity indication to the managing application (page 2, lines 6-7; Figure 2, 222, 250, 224). The communication processor communicates with a browser application providing a user interface display permitting user entry of identification information for validation by the entitlement processor (page 17, lines 11-13; Figure 3; 310, 313, 315).

Dependent claim 9 includes the features of independent claim 1 along with the additional feature that the communication processor communicates a time-out threshold value comprising the timeout window to the managing application (page 7, lines 14-20; Figure 2, 200, 233, 250).

Independent claim 10 provides a system for use by a managing application supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of Internet compatible applications (page 4, lines 18-20; page 5, lines 15-18; Figure 2, 200, 230, 250). An input processor intermittently receives activity indications from a plurality of concurrently operating applications (page 5, lines 21-24; Figure 2, 200, 222, 224, 230, 250; Figure 5, 513). An individual activity indication is generated in response to user action (page 15, lines 28-36; Figure 2, 230, 247, 250). In response to the received activity indications, an activity monitor updates individual activity status indicators, corresponding to the plurality of concurrently operating applications (page 15, lines 19-36; Figure 2, 250, 280). A comparator compares individual activity status indicators with corresponding time-out

threshold values to identify an application time-out event indicated by a status indicator exceeding the time-out threshold and occurring during normal operation of an application (page 15, lines 9-11; page 16, lines 4-7; Figure 2, 230, 250, 247, 237; Figure 11, 460, 463). A communication processor communicates notice of the application time-out event to one of the plurality of concurrently operating applications (page 15, lines 28-30; Figure 2, 230, 250).

Dependent claim 11 includes the features of independent claim 10, along with the additional feature that the activity indications received by the input processor are provided in response to a user action (page 15, lines 12-16; Figure 2, 230, 250, 247; Figure 11, 460). The user action comprises at least one of, (a) keyboard activity, (b) mouse activity, (c) other data entry device and (d) another user initiated PC application operation activity (page 15, lines 19-24).

Dependent claim 12 includes the features of independent claim 10 along with the additional feature that an activity status indicator comprises a time indication identifying when activity of a particular application was last reported (page 16, lines 2-5; Figure 2, 250, 233, 280; Figure 12, 577, 583, 589). The time-out threshold comprises a predetermined time duration (page 7, lines 14-20; page 16, lines 14-17; Figure 2, 200; Figure 12, 577, 583, 589). The managing application determines the particular application to be inactive if the time indication exceeds the time-out threshold (page 15, lines 29-36; Figure 2, 250).

Dependent claim 13 includes the features of independent claim 10 along with the additional feature that the input processor receives activity indications from a plurality of

different commands including an activity notification command and a command involving at least one of, (a) determining a user operation session identifier from said managing application and (b) sending a URL to said managing application (page 6, lines 16-18; page 7, lines 26-29; page 14, lines 3-8; Figure 9, 900, 903, 911, 913, 917).

Dependent claim 14 includes the features of independent claim 10 along with the additional feature that the communication processor communicates notice of the application time-out event to applications of the plurality of concurrently operating applications that have previously requested a notification of session termination (page 15, lines 36-37 to page 16, lines 1-7; Figure 2, 250; Figure 12, 573, 583).

Dependent claim 15 includes the features of independent claim 10 along with the additional feature that the communication processor communicates notice of the application time-out event in response to at least one condition of, (a) a received command requesting notification and (b) a received communication from an application session having previously produced a time-out event and (c) automatically upon generation of the time-out event (page 14, lines 31 to page 15, line 6; Figure 2, 211, 230, 247, 250, 283).

Dependent claim 17 includes the features of independent claim 10 along with the additional feature that the corresponding time-out threshold values comprise a common timeout period for the plurality of concurrently operating applications (page 7, lines 14-18).

Independent claim 19 provides a system supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of Internet compatible applications (page 4, lines 18-20; page 5, lines 15-18; Figure 2, 200, 230, 250).   A browser application provides a user interface display

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permitting user entry of identification information and commands for a plurality of Internet compatible applications (page 16, lines 36-37; Figure 3; 310, 313, 315). A managing application receives activity indications from a plurality of concurrently operating applications (page 5, lines 21-27; Figure 2, 200, 230). An individual activity indication is generated in response to user action (page 15, lines 28-36; Figure 2, 230, 247, 250). The plurality of concurrently operating applications is initiated by user commands via the browser user interface (page 17, lines 12-16). The received activity indications are provided by individual applications sufficiently frequently to prevent an inactivity timeout of the individual applications and during normal operation of an individual application (page 5, lines 21-24; page 7, lines 14-20; page 15, lines 34-36; page 16, lines 30-32, lines 8-9; Figure 2, 200, 222, 224, 230, 233, 250; Figure 5, 513; Figure 12, 583).

Dependent claim 20 includes the features of independent claim 19 along with the additional feature that the activity indication notification includes one or more of, (a) an identification of a particular user initiated session (page 5, lines 28-29; Figure 2, 200, 230, 250) (b) a URL to be contacted if said activity notification is not successful (page 7, lines 21-26; Figure 2, 200), (c) an identification of a type of event preventing said activity notification from being successful (page 7, lines 7-9; Figure 5, 500, 503, 505, 507, 513, 517).

Independent claim 22 provides a method in a system supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications (page 4, lines 18-20; page 5, lines 15-18; Figure 2, 200, 230, 250). Activity indications are intermittently received from a plurality of concurrently operating applications (page 5, lines 21-24; Figure 2, 200, 230). An individual activity indication is generated in response to user action (page 15, lines 28-36; Figure 2, 230, 247, 250). Individual activity status indicators, corresponding to said

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plurality of concurrently operating applications, are updated in response to said received activity indications (page 15, lines 19-36; Figure 2, 250, 280). Individual activity status indicators are compared with corresponding time-out threshold values to identify an application time-out event indicated by a status indicator exceeding the time-out threshold and occurring during normal operation of an application (page 15, lines 9-11; page 16, lines 4-7; Figure 2, 230, 250, 247, 237; Figure 11, 460, 463). Notice of the application time-out event is communicated to one of the plurality of concurrently operating applications (page 15, lines 28-30; Figure 2, 230, 250).

Independent claim 23 provides a method employed by a first application operating in a system supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications (page 4, lines 18-20; page 5, lines 15-18; Figure 2, 200, 230, 250). User access to a first application of a plurality of concurrently operating applications is enabled in response to validation of user identification information (page 5, lines 30-36; Figure 2, 200, 220). Intermittent communication by the first application of an activity indication to a managing application within a timeout window is supported (page 5, lines 21-24; Figure 2, 200, 222, 224, 230, 250; Figure 5, 513). The activity indication notification is generated in response to user action and is communicated sufficiently often to prevent an inactivity timeout of the first application being initiated during normal operation of the first application by the managing application in response to the timeout window being exceeded (page 5, lines 21-24; page 7, lines 14-20; page 15, lines 34-36; page 16, lines 30-32; Figure 2, 200, 222, 224, 230, 250; Figure 5, 513; Figure 12, 583).

Independent claim 24 provides a method in a system supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications (page 4, lines 18-20; page 5, lines 15-18; Figure 2, 200, 230, 250). Activity indications are intermittently received from a plurality of
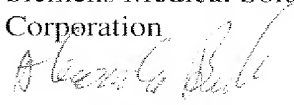
concurrently operating applications of a particular operating session of a user (page 5, lines 21-24; Figure 2, 200, 222, 224, 230, 250; Figure 5, 513). An individual activity indication is generated in response to user action (page 15, lines 28-36; Figure 2, 230, 247, 250). A single activity status indicator associated with the plurality of concurrently operating applications of the particular operating session is updated in response to the received activity indications (page 15, lines 20-24; Figure 2, 250, 280). The single activity status indicator is compared with a time-out threshold value to identify a time-out event indicated by a status indicator exceeding said time-out threshold and occurring during normal operation of an application (page 7, lines 14-20; Figure 2, 230, 237, 247, 250; Figure 11, 460, 463). The plurality of concurrently operating applications is re-initialized in response to the comparison (page 16, line 35 to page 17, line 7; Figure 2, 230, 250, 259, 215, 237).

Remarks

Applicant's respectfully submits that the attached replacement "Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter" complies with 37 CFR 41.37 and properly maps each limitation found in the appealed claims to their respective portion of the present specification.

In view of the above remarks and replacement Summary, Applicant respectfully submits that the Appeal Brief is now in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 and should be considered on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,
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